

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING AGREEMENT TO
SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN A STATEWIDE CULTURAL COMPETENCY
PROJECT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of a funding agreement between the California Institute for Mental Health and the Department of Mental Health to include Los Angeles County in the California Mental Health and Spirituality Initiative Project.

REQUEST

Approve the Funding Agreement (Agreement) between the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH) in the amount of \$28,000, fully funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds under the Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan to allow DMH to participate in CIMH's California Mental Health and Spirituality Initiative Project (the Project). The Agreement term is for two (2) years, effective upon Board approval.

Authorize the Chief Deputy Director of Mental Health or her designee to prepare, sign and execute the Agreement with CIMH.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of these actions will allow DMH to participate in the CIMH Project and thus allow DMH to improve collaboration with faith communities to more effectively eliminate stigma, reach un served and under-served populations and reduce ethnic disparities in care.

The Project components include 1) a comprehensive examination and analysis of current practices in California counties; 2) development of an annotated, web-accessible database with a focus on published literature on mental health and spirituality; 3) planning assistance and recording of two regional conferences on mental health and spirituality; 4) a briefing paper on legal and regulatory issues related to mental health and spirituality for public mental health authorities; 5) development of a template for conducting community dialogues on mental health and spirituality; and 6) development of tools and curricula. These activities and the resultant resources that will be available will enhance DMH's ability to effectively support the choice of individuals

and families to make spirituality a part of their mental health recovery. In addition, they will provide important guidelines and tools for collaborating with faith communities, especially those that work with un-served and underserved populations. It is expected that these endeavors will improve mental health outcomes for individuals and families and improve access to mental health care for unserved and under-served populations.

BACKGROUND

CIMH is a private consultant services agency specialized in technical mental health knowledge related to strategic, organizational and systems planning. With headquarters in Sacramento, CIMH was established in 1993 to promote excellence in mental health services through training, technical assistance, research and policy development, and to work collaboratively with all mental health system stakeholders. Current CIMH Board members include local mental health directors who serve gratuitously to further statewide mental health cause.

County MHSA CSS Plan as approved by the State includes an Outreach and Engagement component designed to increase involvement by and outreach to unserved, under-served and under-represented populations through a variety of approaches, including outreach through faith-based organizations.

CIMH has initiated the Project Statewide to assist County mental health agencies to gain relevant knowledge about collaborating with the faith community to support clients in the recovery process, to reduce stigma regarding mental illness, improve penetration into under-served and unserved communities, and develop holistic practices to better serve clients in their recovery.

The Director of Mental Health currently serves on the Board of Directors of CIMH, but he is not compensated and does not benefit financially in any way from serving in that position. In addition, the Director did not participate in the approval process for this contract. County Counsel has advised that the conflict of interest laws therefore do not preclude the County from entering into an agreement with CIMH.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

As the proposed Agreement is intended to allow DMH to participate in the CIMH Statewide Project, no solicitation process was required or appropriate.

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APPROVED BY:

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DMH Contracts – Alice Wong (Name of Supervisor)
Chief Executive Officer – James Sokalski
County Counsel – Julia Weissman